BENGALURU, SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror

ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 33 | Min 22 | Humidity 32% Partly sunny Sensex 73,583 | Nifty 22,819 | Gold 1,42,695 | Silver 2,23,636 | Dollar 94.82 | Euro 109.40 | GBP 126.15

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Hanks, Heller again
Hollywood veteran Tom Hanks and director Marielle Heller are set to reunite for a baseball dramedy feature film

BangaloreMirror
Saturday, March 28, 2026
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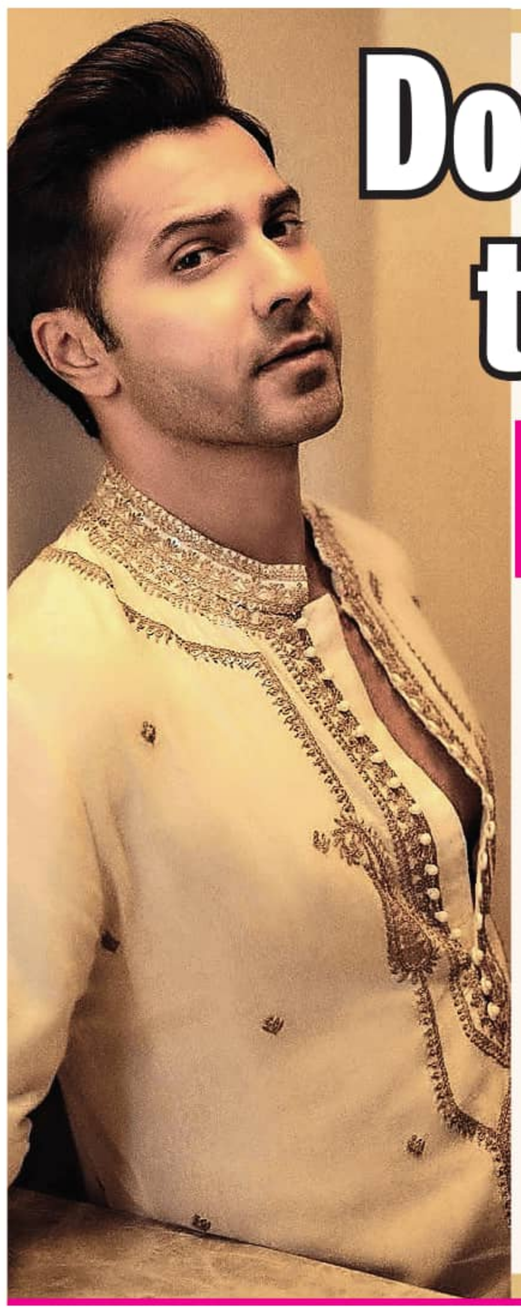

Don't cross the line!

Varun Dhawan reminds trolls that there are limits to making fun of public figures

Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan has spoken strongly against online trolling. The 'Border 2' actor addressed the issue while reacting to the harassment faced by Arjun Kapoor. The topic gained attention after Arjun Kapoor shared an emotional post. It was on his late mother Mona Shourie Kapoor's birth anniversary. His words about life being "tough" and "cruel" worried fans, and soon after, trolling and harsh comments followed online.

Reacting to this, Varun said in an interview with Yuva, "It's wrong. What is funny is funny. I can laugh about it also. But I don't get how people are abusing it to put down a person. Make fun; that's okay. But you don't have to go so personal. And that is what I didn't agree with. Make fun na; nobody is stopping you. I don't think you can stop people, and we shouldn't either."

Varun Dhawan stressed that there is a clear difference between jokes and attacks. Memes and lighthearted fun are part of celebrity life, and he even said he laughs at memes about himself. However, the 'Badlapur' actor pointed out that things change when people turn abusive. Personal insults and targeted harassment cross the line.

The actor also spoke about dealing with criticism as a celebrity. He acknowledged that public figures must accept opinions and believes criticism comes with the profession. He said, "We are public figures, so part of it is that people have the right to criticise you. And you have to be okay with that. If something sucks, people are going to say it sucks and that they don't like it. We are here because of the audience today."

Varun also raised concerns about how narratives are shaped online. He pointed out that social media can be manipulated. He added, "You can buy a bunch of creators to set or not set a narrative."

– ETimes

Celebrating a hit

Actor Ranveer Singh, who is currently basking in praise from movie buffs for his performance in the recent blockbuster 'Dhurandhar 2,' stepped out for a relaxed outing with wife Deepika Padukone in Mumbai.

The husband-wife duo was spotted at a popular South Indian eatery in Chowpatty, where they posed for an adorable selfie with the restaurant staff.

In a picture shared by the restaurant Benne Bombay on Thursday, the 'Dhurandhar' actor can be seen taking a selfie, dressed in a black T-shirt, white cap, and sunglasses, while Deepika stands beside him, smiling and flashing a peace sign. Ranveer's father, Jagjit Singh Bhavnani, was also seen in the frame along with the staff.

Meanwhile, Ranveer's film 'Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge,' directed by Aditya Dhar, seems to have no intention of slowing down at the box office. The film released on March 19.

–ANI

Madhuri gets office space

Madhuri Dixit has leased a commercial office space in Mumbai's Lower Parel for a period of five years, with the total rental value amounting to Rs 2.81 crore, according to documents reviewed by Square Yards.

As per the registration papers, the office unit is situated in One Lodha Place and spans a carpet area of 731 sq ft. The agreement also includes one dedicated parking space. The transaction incurred a stamp duty of Rs 72,600, along with registration charges of Rs 1,000, and involved a security deposit of 17 lakh.

The lease has been signed for 60 months (five years), with a structured rent escalation. The monthly rent starts at Rs 4.25 lakh in the first year and increases by 5 per cent to Rs 4.46 lakh in the second year. It further rises by 5 per cent to Rs 4.68 lakh in the third year, Rs 4.91 lakh in the fourth year, and reaches 5.16 lakh in the fifth year, the documents showed.

Accordingly, the cumulative rental value over the entire five-year term is Rs 2.81 crore, SquareYards said. The deal was officially registered on March 24, 2with the property leased from Rinku Parikshit Joshi.

On the work front, Madhuri was last seen in Nagesh Kukunoor's thriller series 'Mrs Deshpande' where she plays a complex serial killer.

–ETimes

Antonio Banderas on life after heart attack: It changed the way I look at life

Hollywood star Antonio Banderas has claimed his near-fatal heart attack is the best thing to have happened to him because of the changes he made to his life.

The 65-year-old actor reassessed his life after suffering a medical emergency in 2017 and after walking away from his Hollywood lifestyle to return to his birthplace of Malaga, Spain.

Banderas, who lives with partner Nicole Kimpel, told The Times newspaper of his belief his heart attack was the best thing to have happened to him: "Seriously. Mine was a really serious warning. It changed the way I look at life.

"Faced with death, it made me look back and realise that I am, in fact, a theatre actor. I have never been so happy."

He quipped he is so besotted with his theatre that he'll still be there when he dies, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He said: "A few months before (my father) died we were watching the procession of the Holy Sepulchre pass by on the night of Good Friday and suddenly, without looking at me, he said, 'I think there's nothing. I think there's nothing after death.' My father, who was very Catholic, said that. I will come back as a ghost. To haunt my theatre."

–IANS

All about loyalty

YAVA MOHANA MURALI KAREYITU (KANNADA)
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Vishwas Krishna
- **ACTORS** Prakruthi, Patel Varun Raj, Madhavan H, Swapna Shettigar, and Shashidhar Bhat.
- **Duration** 111 minutes
- **Certification** U

Actress Amanda Peet has publicly shared her breast cancer journey in a heartfelt note, revealing how the diagnosis coincided with her parents' final days.

TDebutant director Vishwas Krishna has made a good attempt to showcase a bond between a specially-abled child and a dog in this film that is said to be inspired by real-life incidents. It is not easy for a debutant director to handle child artistes and animals, but Vishwas has done just that. If you compare this film with other recent movies based on pets, Yava Mohana Murali Kareyitu may not match up. One of the issues is that the screenplay is not crisp. A few scenes, especially the scene where a stranger is seen brandishing a pistol at a cook, and another set in a math look incongruous. Another scene where a stranger takes shelter at a house is far from convincing.

The movie begins at a primary health centre in Karagal village in Sagar taluk. Mohan (Madhava H), a kind-hearted affluent person, and his wife Dr Sindhu (Swapna Shettigar) are leading a happy married life with their 'daughter' Prakruthi (Prakruthi Sharan), a special child, with love and affection. At this juncture, a person abandons his pet dog at a math. Prakruthi asks her father to adopt the dog and names it Rocky.

Meanwhile, Murali (Patel Varun Raju) enters the village. Later, the director introduces a scene showing that Murali was neck-deep in debt and his wife Meghana walked out of his life, which is when he came to the village searching for his daughter. You have to watch the movie to know who Murali's daughter is and what happens to Rocky and Dr Sindhu.

Patel Varun Raju is convincing as a sort of villain. Swapna Shettigar has to hone her acting skills. She looks stoic throughout the movie. Child artiste Prakruthi Sharan has acted well. Madhavan H and Shashidhar Bhat have provided good support.

Background score and cinematography add value to the movie.

It is worth a watch for families.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

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BIG CITY DREAMS

Business corridors, pothole-free roads, bike ambulance first responder unit and many more grand plans unveiled in City Corporations' budget

PAGE 6

POWER PLAY

As RCB take on SRH today, here's an indepth look at what is new in terms of conditions that all teams must adhere to during and before actual play

PAGE 11

While number of drunk driving cases in 2025 spiked by nearly 65% as compared to 2024, in first 2 months of 2026, already 6,616 cases have been recorded, showing city roads not safe from tippler drivers

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Violation punishable with fine of Rs 10,000 or jail, suspension of driving licence

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A viral video of three people on a two-wheeler swaying through BTM road without helmets and with the pillion rider waving a beer bottle around, may have caused alarm, but is not that uncommon on city's roads as we would like it to be. An average of 3,000 cases have been booked each month this year of drink and drive, translating to nearly 100 cases per day.

Since the viral video the trio, practising orthopaedic doctors, have been traced and arrested by Mico Layout traffic police.

According to traffic data in two months of 2026, police have registered 6,616 cases of drunk driving apart from the ones during special drives. In January, 3,475 cases were reported and in February, 3,141 cases were reported. Drunk driving cases saw a significant resurgence in 2025 and early 2026 in the city. Traffic Police booked over 38,919 cases in 2025, marking a sharp 64.8% increase compared to 2024, when 23,620 cases were registered.

According to traffic police officials, the numbers reflect a persistent disregard for road safety norms among motorists.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >>

"Officers are equipped with modern alcometers and breathalysers to measure a driver's Blood Alcohol Content (BAC). If BAC exceeds 30 mg per 100 ml of blood, the individual is considered to be driving under the influence. Some assume consuming a small peg or a bottle of beer is safe, but alcohol tolerance varies from person to person

—Traffic police official

Dark legacy of waste

Groundwater near Doddabidarakallu landfill has high levels of heavy metals due to leachate, researchers find

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Leachate from Doddabidarakallu landfill in North Bengaluru has contaminated groundwater in the area. Groundwater within a half-kilometre radius of the landfill has high levels of heavy metals such as iron, copper, and zinc, researchers at Bangalore University have found.

While Iron levels in groundwater samples in the area were found to be more than three times the permissible level by WHO, high concentrations of copper and zinc have also been recorded.

A total of 170 samples, including 130 groundwater, 24 surface water, 8 pond, and 8 leachate, were collected by researchers between 2022 and 2024 and were analysed for 23 parameters to deduce contamination.

Professor (retd.) RK Somashekar of the Department of Environmental Science at Bangalore University says the landfill and surrounding area were studied as it has a history of uncontrolled disposal of waste from 2007 to 2012, with approximately 18,000 tonnes of legacy waste still unprocessed. Moreover, the region also hosts multiple sources of water contamination, including a maturing landfill, sewage treatment plant discharge, interconnected lakes, agricultural fields, and an industrial corridor, all operating within a 2 km radius.

"The area represents a worst-case scenario for leachate generation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Electric ensemble

Indian Craft Brewery presents an electrifying evening with Kanya, an all-women multilingual live band, known for their high-energy stage presence and setlist spanning rock, Bollywood, folk, regional, and Western hits. **Where: Indian Craft Brewery (ICB), Nagawara; When: March 28, 8 pm**

02 Grey area

Aalekh Arts & Culture Foundation is hosting an art fundraiser titled 'Shades of Grey', bringing together a series of evocative oil-on-canvas works exploring the nuanced emotional spectrum of women through atmospheric landscapes rendered in tonal greys, textures, and shifting horizons. **Where: Sabha Gallery; When: Until March 28**

03 Fragments of nature

Kapila Nahender presents Pockets of Resistance, a new body of work that examines the subtle yet powerful ways in which nature continues to exist within the dense fabric of contemporary cities through a series of layered oil paintings **Where: Venkatappa Art Gallery; When: Until March 29, 11 am to 6 pm**

04 Melody unbound

The Nadathur Foundation is organising the 5th edition of Nada Sambhrama, a concert series dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rich tradition of Indian classical music. This edition represents an enchanting evening of Hindustani music featuring Vidhushi Shubha Mudgal. **Where: Mangala Mandapa Auditorium, NMKRV Campus; When: March 28, 6.30 pm**

05 Sporting script

Atta Galatta is bringing a sports writing workshop with a squad of aspiring and seasoned writers for a journey into the high-stakes world of sports journalism and storytelling. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 28, 11 am**

Move to secure child safety at tourist spots

Tourism Department circular mandates enforcement of policy focusing on measures to ensure protection of children at tourist places based on recommendations made by KSCPCR

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In light of recent drowning incidents, KSCPCR also suggested identifying safe swimming spots for children and implementing measures to safeguard them near water bodies

In response to incidents of student drownings at picnic spots in Karnataka, the Undersecretary of the Tourism Department has issued a circular to the Commissioner, advising the framing and enforcement of a Child Protection in Tourism Policy at major tourist locations across the state.

The circular, issued on March 3, 2026, was based on a letter written by Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) member Dr Thippeswamy KT on February 2, 2026. His recommendations include mandatory display of child helpline number 1098 in English and Kannada at tourist spots, trekking points, hotels, boat jetties, resorts, and tourist vehicles, with the display made compulsory for licence approval. The KSCPCR also suggested placing danger signs at destinations with deep water, marking Children Danger Zones at such locations, and requiring security guards to inform children and parents about the risks.

KSCPCR suggested training tourism and forest staff on the JJ Act and POCSO Act, along with creating awareness on how to inform authorities when children are found in distress. It also recommended identifying safe swimming spots for children, ensuring life jackets at such locations, conducting annual audits at major tourist destinations, and including child safety clauses in all licences issued by the Tourism Department.

Describing the government's directive to formulate a Child Protection in Tourism Policy as commendable, child rights activist Nagasimha G Rao said all tourist destinations must be made child friendly. "As per Article 26 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children must be provided with social security in all settings. However, incidents of children drowning in water bodies, getting lost or becoming victims of sexual abuse at tourist spots continue to be reported regularly. If the government prepares the Child Protection in Tourism Policy, mandatory training and awareness programmes must be conducted for the general public who travel with children, schools, and organisations that organise tours," Rao said. Rao said that to make the policy truly effective, authorities must organise regular sensitisation workshops for tour operators, hotel staff, guides, and security personnel at all major tourist destinations. "Clear guidelines and safety protocols must be made mandatory for every school excursion and family tour involving children. A dedicated helpline 1098, 112 and emergency response mechanism should be established exclusively for child safety issues in tourist places," he said.

KSCPCR recommends mandatory display of child helpline number at tourist spots, along with danger signs at deep water destinations and requiring security guards to alert children and parents about risks

He said that strict enforcement and periodic monitoring of the policy should be carried out to ensure compliance by all stakeholders. "Public awareness campaigns through media and social platforms should be launched to educate parents and guardians about child safety while travelling," he said.

No more pass or fail in Hindi and other third languages in SSLC exams

In a move to alleviate academic pressure on high schoolers, the Karnataka state government has announced that there will be no 'Pass' or 'Fail' results for Hindi and other third languages in the SSLC examinations. School Education and Literacy Minister S Madhu Bangarappa on Friday, confirmed that these subjects will now transition to a grading-only system, bringing a wave of relief to lakhs of students across the state.

Speaking at a press conference following the conclusion of the Legislative Assembly session, the Minister explained that the third language, which includes Hindi, Sanskrit, Tulu, Marathi, and Arabic, will no longer impact a student's final numerical total or their overall pass/fail status. Previously, the third language carried 100 marks within the 625-point total, but under this reform, students will receive letter grades such as A, B, C, or D instead of numerical marks.

The Minister emphasised that the primary goal of this shift is to empower government schools and free students from the intense stress associated with competitive rankings. By removing the "Pass-Fail" barrier for the third language, the department aims to ensure that language learning remains a part of the curriculum without becoming a hurdle for a student's promotion to higher education. An official order reflecting these changes is expected to be issued shortly. This reform is part of a broader mission to create a student-friendly environment where the focus shifts from rote memorisation to holistic development.

In addition to the grading reform, Minister Bangarappa highlighted several new initiatives aimed at the moral and mental well-being of students. Starting this academic year, the government will provide free 'Moral Education' textbooks to help shape responsible citizens. Furthermore, citing growing concerns over mental health, a proposal to restrict social media usage for children under the age of 16 was discussed in the Assembly and received widespread support. The Minister made a heartfelt appeal to parents to take greater responsibility for their children's mobile usage, noting that government intervention alone cannot solve the digital addiction crisis. — BMB

Celebration of devotion

Devotees gather at Ram Mandir in Rajajinagar with faith and joy to mark the occasion of Ram Navami

Waste must be segregated into 4 categories now

New waste management rules coming to force from April introduce fourth special category, mandating strict four-way segregation

Citizens must segregate waste into prescribed categories before discarding it, as per waste management rules

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The new Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, will come into effect from April 1. The new rule by the central environment ministry has mandated strict four-way segregation at the source.

Starting Wednesday, waste at your homes must be segregated into wet, dry, sanitary, and special care waste categories.

While Bengaluru has been carrying out wet, dry, and sanitary waste segregation for more than a decade, special care waste is a new category. It includes discarded paint drums, pesticide cans or containers or bottles, compact fluorescent lamp or bulbs, tube lights, expired medicines, broken mercury thermometers, waste batteries, used or waste needles and syringes, and contaminated gauge, or any other waste notified by the Central Pollution Control Board from time to time, generated at the household level.

However, citywide solid waste management experts highlight a lack of awareness about the segregation of the fourth category.

A communication by an apartment complex in East Bengaluru has taken the experts by surprise.

Experts highlight lack of awareness about segregation of fourth category, suggest spreading awareness through voice messages on waste-collecting vehicles, displaying banners and posters and training waste pickers

The electronic message sent by the management committee to residents talks about mandatory four-way segregation, with instructions on the types of waste bins. As per the communication, sanitary and domestic hazardous waste, such as diapers, sanitary pads, bandages, medicines, and bulbs, must be wrapped separately in paper and handed over.

The newly introduced special care waste, as per the communication, includes reject waste such as swept dust, hair, small debris, used tissues, cigarette butts etc.

"While apartment complexes have received notification on four ways of segregation from BSWML, the lack of awareness regarding the type of waste that goes into the fourth bin is even more glaring among individual house residents. In most cases, people are aware of two or a maximum of three ways of segregation," said Plog Raja of Indian Ploggers Army.

Experts say awareness can be spread through voice messages by waste-collecting vehicles. These vehicles can also be used for displaying banners and posters in the fourth category of waste. Waste pickers can play a crucial role as well, provided they receive training on this aspect by BSWML or GBA.

According to Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, a citizen volunteer group, there is also a lack of clarity on the fate of the fourth category. "Dry waste is collected twice a week, and wet waste and rejects are collected daily. We are still unaware if the fourth category of waste will be collected daily. Moreover, while the wet waste destination is either composting or biogas centres, dry waste goes to recycling. Sanitary waste reaches either landfill or incineration points. There is no clarity on how the fourth category will be treated. BSWML must also ensure colour coding for all categories," said Katrak.

Woman dies by suicide; harassment suspected

A 36-year-old housewife died by suicide at her residence in HSR Layout on Friday morning, with her family alleging dowry harassment by her husband's family.

The deceased has been identified as Shailaja. According to police, she was found hanging at her home between 9 and 10 am. Shailaja had entered into a second marriage with Venkatesh about two years ago, and her family members claimed she was subjected to continuous physical and mental torture by her husband and his relatives following the wedding. The HSR Layout police have registered a case. Further action will be taken based on investigation findings. **-BMB**

Lokayukta flags lapses at Victoria Hospital

The Karnataka Lokayukta has uncovered serious irregularities and alleged exploitation of patients by private ambulance operators within the premises of Victoria Hospital, following a suo motu probe initiated on complaints. According to a press note issued on March 27, 2026, patients were allegedly misled by private ambulance drivers and middlemen into believing that the hospital lacked adequate facilities, prompting them to shift to private hospitals. A committee constituted by the Lokayukta conducted a surprise inspection, revealing alarming findings, including expired medicines. A compliance report has been sought by April 23. The matter will be heard next on April 27. **-BMB**

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Who is behind recurring fires at Jnanabharathi campus?

Repeated fire incidents at Jnanabharathi campus spark concern as students and residents struggle with delayed response and lack of strict action against miscreants

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Campus safety questioned amid recurring fire mishaps and delays

If the recurring fire mishaps on Jnanabharathi Campus are any indication, it seems miscreants and pyromaniacs are ruling the roost. The campus has the privilege of having a police station, including a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Office, and a fire station, yet such incidents continue to occur at regular intervals, raising serious concerns among students and residents.

On March 16, volunteers and students handed over a person to the jurisdictional police for allegedly setting dry leaves and weeds on fire, which damaged well-grown trees. However, it is not clear what action has been taken against the individual while in police custody.

"I am not aware of volunteers and students handing a person to the police for allegedly setting dry leaves and weeds on fire at Jnanabharathi Campus. The volunteers or students should have lodged a complaint with the police against the person allegedly responsible for fire mishaps. I will take measures to increase police vigil on miscreants and pyromaniacs to prevent fire mishaps on Jnanabharathi Campus," said Jnanabharathi Police Inspector.

Bangalore Mirror published a story – What the blazes is going on here? – on March 2, 2026, narrating how a fire at Bangalore University's Jnanabharathi campus damaged several trees and brought the issue into focus again, with environmentalists and regular walkers expressing concern over recurring incidents.

A fire broke out at the campus on Thursday evening, damaging many well-grown trees. Students and nearby residents attempted to extinguish the fire after failing to get a response from the fire station located within the campus. "I informed the fire station and police over the phone about the fire mishap. While law and order police rushed to the spot, no one from fire and emergency services turned up," said Ramalinga, a student.

Expressing concern over repeated incidents, Gangadharaiah DS, a nominated member of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited, said his friend Renuka Prasad informed him about the fire. "I rushed to the spot and joined the hands with volunteers to extinguish the fire. I am contemplating to meet police officers to explain about the recurring fire mishaps that are damaging well-grown trees", said Gangadharaiah.

> **"I rushed to the spot and joined the hands with volunteers to extinguish the fire. I am contemplating to meet police officers to explain about the recurring fire mishaps that are damaging well-grown trees**
>
> – Gangadharaiah DS Nominated Member, Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited

Dr TJ Renuka Prasad, who played a key role in developing bio parks on the campus, said that he wanted to thank all those involved in extinguishing the fire. "My sincere thanks to students Ramalingaiah, Pujar, and others. Also, I want to thank specially Gangadharaiah, who obliged my request to reach the spot immediately & did a marvelous job. The refusal of Fire Station saying the staff not available to the Ramalingaiah's call, he has contacted 100 & an ASI from Kengeri has joined the spot. One lady guard also joined to contain the spread of fire. Many thanks to all of them," said Renuka Prasad. Meanwhile, Nagarabhavi Fire Station Officer said that most of the students and security guards were trained in firefighting. "We organised awareness programmes for students and security guards. The existing fire station would be shifted to another location, near the DCP Office, shortly," the Fire Station Officer said.

Annual water charge hike begins from April

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will implement an automatic 3% increase in monthly water charges from April 1 to adjust for rising costs. The Board, which last revised rates 14 years ago and increased charges by 32% only last year, has decided to adopt an annual automatic 3% hike going forward. BWSSB officials said the move is intended to control losses without imposing a large one-time increase. They noted that while the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission had recommended a 5% annual rise, the Board has limited it to 3%. However, the automatic increase has drawn criticism from the public and political leaders, who have called it an unpopular measure. **— BMB**

Four-track plan to ease Bengaluru rail congestion

The South Western Railway has moved forward with plans to upgrade the Bengaluru–Bangarpet rail section to four tracks, a long-pending demand. The ₹1,481 crore project involves adding two new tracks alongside the existing pair, effectively doubling the route's capacity. This is expected to ease congestion and allow smoother movement for both passenger and freight trains.

Surveys for the expansion began in 2022, while formal approval was granted by the Railway Board in November last year. The project has been designated as a special plan to avoid delays in land acquisition and clearances. Once completed, residents of Bengaluru Rural and Kolar districts, including Devanagondi, Malur, and Tekal, will benefit. Trains between Bengaluru and Chennai, including Vande Bharat, Shatabdi, and Kaveri Express, will also operate more smoothly without crossing issues. **— BMB**

444 acres of forest land under Air Force to be reclaimed

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has issued written instructions to various departments, including the Additional Chief Secretary, to immediately initiate proceedings under Section 64A of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, to reclaim 444 acres of forest land under the Air Force in Srigantha Kaval, Jarakabande in North Bengaluru. The 452 acres 4½ guntas of land granted to the Air Force in the Jarakabande Kaval forest area was canceled by the state government on 9 October 2017. It has been decided to preserve this parcel of land as Bengaluru's lung space. "Even after the land allotment was cancelled in the national interest, the Indian Air Force violated the rules by using the land without submitting an application as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for alternative land allocation. In this context, we have issued a notice under Section 64A instructing for compulsory evacuation," Khandre said. The Minister clarified that to carry out any infrastructure development work on the given parcel of land, permission must be obtained from the Forest Department, and a circular should be issued informing all departments. **— BMB**

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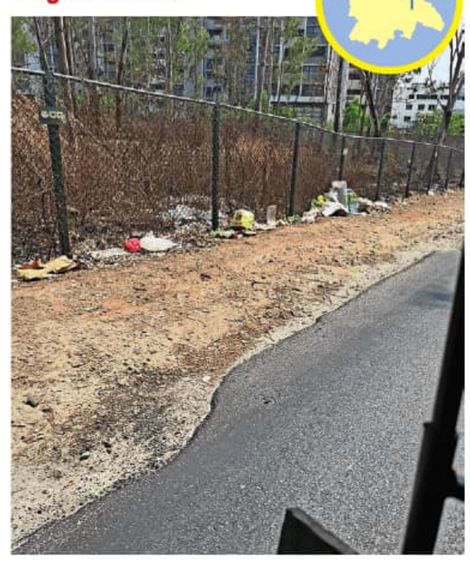
Sewage issue

Pai Layout

Residents of Pai Layout near Hulimavu Gate on Bannerghatta Road have reported sewage blockage and foul odour caused by improper sanitary waste disposal from Rentorio Dream Ville service apartment, affecting the surrounding environment.

Dumping zone

Vajarahalli



The 100 ft road from Vajarahalli to BSK 6th Stage along Turahalli Minor Forest has become a garbage dumping stretch, raising concerns over environmental damage and fire risks.

Water crisis

Chinnanna Layout

Residents of an apartment at Chinnanna Layout, 1st Cross, say they have not received corporation water for seven years and depend on expensive tanker supply.

Woman arrested for stealing gold chain

JP Nagar police officials have arrested a woman for stealing a 11.98-gram gold chain worth Rs 1.34 lakh from a jewellery shop.

According to the official report, the complainant, manager of a jewellery shop on 8th Main Road, 3rd Phase, stated that while verifying the stock of gold ornaments he noticed one chain missing. On checking the CCTV footage, he found that a woman had entered the shop on March 12, asked the staff to show her some gold chains, and slipped one into her bag before leaving.

The woman was arrested on March 24 near a bus stop in Begur, where she confessed to the crime and revealed that she had pledged the stolen chain at a bank in Tumakuru district. The police recovered the stolen gold chain from the bank.

In a similar case, a house help was suspected of stealing Rs 3.3 lakh in cash and 39 grams of gold ornaments on March 14, leading to a complaint filed with the JP Nagar Police Station. Police arrested the housemaid and recovered Rs 2.25 lakh from the accused's residence and collected 22.5 grams of gold ornaments from a jewellery shop where it was sold. **–BMB**

Bus catches fire, passengers unharmed

A Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus caught fire while it was operating near LULU Mall in Rajajinagar on Thursday. The incident took place just minutes after it had left Kempegowda Bus Station at 10.15 pm. Around 21 passengers, along with the crew members, escaped the vehicle which was engulfed in fire.

The bus was conducting a journey between Bengaluru and Shivamogga. A motorcyclist alerted the bus crew members about a spark of fire they noticed near the engine.

The driver immediately pulled over and the crew members began to douse the fire using the fire extinguisher available on board, while the passengers deboarded.

The Fire and Emergency Services in Rajajinagar were alerted and arrived at the scene to help extinguish the fire fully. According to a senior police official from Magadi Police Station, as soon as the passengers were deboarded, the fire spread across the body of the bus. Police officials in their preliminary investigation concluded that the incident took place due to diesel leaking in the vehicle or a suspected electrical short circuit. **–BMB**

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Over 2.8 lakh posts vacant across govt departments

Data reveals large number of vacancies in various departments, underlining urgent need for focused recruitment drives, transparent deployment policies and retention strategies

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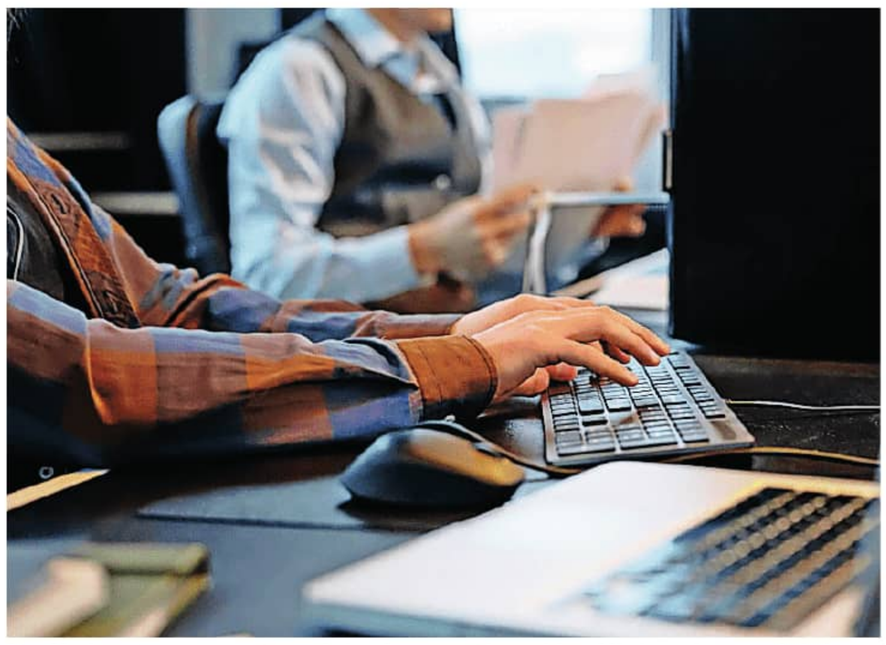
Karnataka is staring at a severe manpower crisis across its government departments, with over 2.8 lakh sanctioned posts lying vacant and currently managed by contractual staff, raising concerns over service delivery and governance efficiency. A detailed review of departmental data presented in the legislature recently reveals glaring gaps across education, health, revenue, rural development, and other essential sectors, highlighting the urgent need for recruitment and better workforce planning.

The School Education and Literacy Department is the worst affected, with 79,486 posts unfilled out of 79,694 sanctioned positions, leaving nearly 91 per cent of positions vacant. This includes teaching and administrative staff across state-run schools, making it extremely difficult to maintain classroom standards and literacy initiatives. Health and Medical Education is also under strain, with 10,324 vacancies out of 37,572 sanctioned posts, accounting for more than 27 per cent of total positions. Such gaps are particularly concerning in the context of the ongoing pandemic and the demand for specialist healthcare staff in government hospitals.

Administrative departments are no better off. According to the data, the Revenue Department has 15,376 posts lying vacant, with a unique imbalance as outsourced contractual appointments have caused a negative adjustment of over 4,500 posts, reflecting the challenges of managing permanent and contractual staff simultaneously. Similarly, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj faces a 74 per cent vacancy rate, with 7,760 posts unfilled out of 10,504 sanctioned positions. This shortage directly impacts the implementation of welfare schemes, rural development projects, and local governance.


Staff shortage creates risk of operational inefficiencies and delays in programme execution

Experts say that while contractual recruitment and outsourcing have provided temporary relief, reliance on such measures has not addressed structural gaps in permanent staffing

Welfare departments are also struggling to fill key positions. The Scheduled Castes Welfare Department has 3,131 vacancies, while the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department reports 2,839 unfilled posts. Departments like Animal Husbandry, Law, Justice & Human Rights, and Forestry face substantial gaps as well, with 7,617, 5,373, and 2,899 posts vacant respectively. These shortages hinder policy implementation, judicial support services, environmental conservation, and technical operations, indicating a broader structural challenge in state administration, the data pointed out.

Even specialised departments like Health, Higher Education, and Women & Child Development are unable to meet their staffing requirements. Health and Higher Education departments report over 10,000 vacant posts collectively, while Women & Child Development has nearly 600 vacancies, affecting programme execution and community outreach. Other sectors like Transport, Food & Civil Supplies, Cooperative Societies, Skill Development, and Tourism also face staff deficits ranging from hundreds to over a thousand posts, reflecting the widespread nature of this manpower crunch.

Experts say that while contractual recruitment and outsourcing have provided temporary relief, the reliance on such measures has not addressed the structural gaps in permanent staffing. The skewed distribution of staff, combined with high vacancy rates, creates operational inefficiencies, delays in programme execution, and affects citizen access to government services. With Karnataka's total sanctioned posts nearing 4.5 lakh, the current vacancies of 2.84 lakh highlight that more than half the state machinery is understaffed, underlining the urgent need for focused recruitment drives, transparent deployment policies, and retention strategies to strengthen governance.

"Unless immediate action is taken, departments with the highest shortfalls; school education, health, revenue, and rural development will continue to struggle with implementation, impacting both urban and rural populations. The government faces a critical challenge in bridging these gaps to ensure efficient public service delivery and maintaining administrative stability across the state," said a government employee.

Tiger found dead near Nagarhole

The carcass of a three-year-old male tiger was found near the Mettikuppe range of Nagarhole Tiger Reserve on Friday after it reportedly got caught in a snare.The snare, set to trap wild boars, was laid on a farm in Asanagundi, 300 metres from the boundary of the tiger reserve.

According to officials from the Karnataka Forest Department, the farm belongs to an individual named Girish, who had earlier complained about tiger movement near his farm. The snare is said to have been laid by farm labourers. Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has instructed that an investigation into the unfortunate incident be conducted by a team led by the Chief Conservator of Forest. He also noted that action against officials will be taken if any lapse in patrolling is detected in the investigation.This is the second tiger death this year, suspected to have been caused by snares.

A five-year-old tiger was found dead at Gundal reservoir, at Kollegal wildlife range in BRT Tiger Reserve in February.

Earlier, on March 16, another tiger died of electrocution near Bandipur Tiger Reserve. **–BMB**

Fake plates, real trouble

After a car drifting incident, another case of alleged fraud involving the use of a fake registration number on a luxury car has been registered against Ricky Rai by the Cubbon Park Police following an early morning incident at Anil Kumble Circle. According to police, the incident occurred at around 2.40 am on March 21, when a Lamborghini Huracan reportedly drifted and stalled near Anil Kumble Circle. The vehicle was subsequently seized and a case was registered at the Cubbon Park Traffic Police Station. Police discovered that the car originally bore a Delhi registration and had been operating in Karnataka without proper re-registration or tax compliance. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

GBA Budget 2026

City monetisation push begins with new business corridors

Cash-strapped Bengaluru looks at premium business corridors to generate revenue, upgrade infrastructure and reduce financial pressure without large one-time increases

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Bengaluru Central City Corporation plans to convert selected roads into Business Corridors, providing upgraded infrastructure and charging higher premium fees for commercial use. The revenue generated from these corridors will be reinvested into city infrastructure and urban development, aiming to strengthen the Corporation's financial position and support long-term growth.

Budget constraints drive innovative revenue generation through corridors

Financial Overview

The Corporation's 2026-27 budget reflects a tight financial position, opening with a balance of ₹64.60 lakh and projecting total receipts of ₹3,427.34 crore. This includes ₹2,342.20 crore from internal resources, ₹884.50 crore in Central and State grants, and ₹200 crore from municipal bonds. With planned expenditure of ₹3,426.60 crore, the projected surplus stands at only ₹78.65 lakh, leaving minimal scope for unforeseen expenses.

Historic markets such as KR Market, Russell Market, Johnson Market, and Kalasipalya Market will be upgraded while retaining their local character

Infrastructure Measures

Along with Business Corridors, the Corporation has proposed measures to improve pedestrian and traffic management. Amendments to Stilt Parking rules exclude stilt floors from total building height calculations, allowing additional floors and reducing on-street parking. Under the "Hejje Hejjege Surakshe" programme, 50 km of existing footpaths will be upgraded and 15 km of new footpaths constructed to be elderly- and disabled-friendly. High-Rise Pedestrian Crossings will also be installed following Supreme Court directions.

Revenue Sources

Cholan said that the Advertising Division is expected to contribute ₹192 crore, including ₹50 crore from permits and renewal fees for public infrastructure under public-private partnerships and ₹142 crore from LED and digital screen tenders. The budget also allocates ₹43.14 crore for lake conservation in Kaggadasapura, Ulsoor, Kelagina Byrasandra, and Chickpete Byrasandra, including fencing, tree plantation, and protection against encroachment. Historic markets such as KR Market, Russell Market, Johnson Market, and Kalasipalya Market will be upgraded while retaining their local character.

Citizen Initiatives

The budget includes the Bike Ambulance First Responder Unit for rapid medical support, the Kirumalige – Shuddha Aahaara scheme for street food safety, and a street dog management programme with sterilisation, vaccination, and microchipping.

Bengaluru East budget pushes AI-led revenue growth

Budget outlines plan to use technology for better tax assessment, higher revenue generation and improved civic infrastructure across multiple wards

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Bengaluru East City Corporation plans to integrate artificial intelligence and advanced digital systems into its tax and property management framework as part of its 2026–27 budget, presented on Friday by Commissioner Ramesh DS. The Corporation aims to achieve a revenue target of ₹1,500 crore without raising additional taxes by improving compliance, streamlining property tax assessment, and expanding the tax base using AI.

AI integration

The budget proposes the use of AI and 3D modelling to identify unassessed properties and tax defaulters, while developing a GIS-based property information system accessible to citizens. Data integration across tax networks is expected to generate an additional ₹100 crore annually. Commissioner Ramesh DS described the move as a step towards "efficient and transparent revenue mobilisation" in line with the GBA Act 2024.

Ad revenue plan

In addition to property tax reforms, the Corporation plans to boost revenue from advertisements. Under Greater Bengaluru Area Rules 2025, legacy ads will be regularised and self-advertisements converted into commercial hoardings, targeting ₹20 crore. Agency licenses may add ₹2.75 crore, while skywalk advertising and development could generate ₹25 crore. Bus shelter ads under PPP are expected to bring ₹5 crore, taking total advertisement revenue to about ₹68 crore.

Infrastructure works

The budget allocates ₹112.5 crore for roads and drains across 50 wards, while ₹227 crore is earmarked for infrastructure development in SC/ST, backward class, and minority-dominated areas. Key road projects include the Panathur–S-Cross Road, flood-affected Balagere Road, and Outer Ring Road (ORR) service roads between K.R. Puram and Ibblur Junction. The Government of Karnataka has planned a ₹450 crore long-term ORR development project from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram during 2026–27.

Pedestrian infrastructure is also prioritised. The Corporation plans 100 km of footpaths, including a 9 km stretch along the metro viaduct on ORR, sponsored under ORRCA at a cost of ₹160 crore. Junction improvements, skywalks, and pedestrian-friendly projects have been allocated ₹50 crore, while RUBs, ROBs, and flyover beautification projects are included under PPP arrangements with ₹65 crore earmarked. Major road widening works will receive ₹40 crore.

Budget allocates ₹112.5 crore for roads and drains across 50 wards, while ₹227 crore is earmarked for infrastructure development in SC/ST, backward class, and minority-dominated areas

Future plans

Ramesh said, "Revenue from municipal bonds will fund grade separators and elevated flyovers, including a ₹50 crore project on Alpine Eco Road and a ₹150 crore flyover from Varthur towards Gunjur. ₹20 crore is allocated for the development of key public spaces and the preparation of a climate action plan."

AT A GLANCE

Figures

Total outlay	Rs 3,427 crore
Revenue estimates	Rs 3,427 crore
Expenditure	Rs 3,425 crore
Surplus	Rs 1.38 crore

Pledge: Make every ward road "pothole-free" and focus on strengthening public healthcare

Highlights

- Bike ambulances under the First Responder Unit scheme to navigate traffic and provide free, life-saving care during the critical "golden hour"
- **22** high-tech 'smart virtual clinics' at a cost of Rs **19** crore to deliver corporate-style medical services at the doorsteps of the poor
- **'Vatsalya Mane'**, a day-care centre for specially abled children
- **'Hiriyara Vadi'**, a residential scheme for elderly persons without caregivers.
- Rs **40** crore allocated for upgrading hospitals.
- Revitalisation of the century-old Russell Market at a cost of Rs **70** crore.
- Rs **20** crore earmarked for the development of other markets
- **60%** reduction in electricity bills through the use of LED lights and creation of Blue-Green Corridors.
- Dedicated Urban Design Cell for the global-standard design of roads and public spaces.
- Pilot scheme named **'Kirumalige' Shuddha Aahaara'** (Small Shop Pure Food), with a budget of Rs 25 lakh to train and certify street food vendors in food safety
- Rs **1,760** crore for public works; Rs 217.50 crore for asphalting **145** km of arterial and sub-arterial roads
- Development of 115 km of ward roads at a cost of Rs **200** crore
- Construction of 10 new community buildings, upgrading of stormwater drains with World Bank assistance, decorative electrification of major roads at a cost of Rs 15 crore, and the transformation of spaces under flyovers into micro-parks and artistic hubs.
- Construction of **500** individual houses at a cost of Rs **35.70** crore.
- Rs **215** crore allocated for solid waste management, and **60** new public toilets and **20** SHE Toilets for women to be constructed
- Scientific shelters and rescue centres for street dogs to be established at a cost of Rs **2** crore
- Rs **15** crore has been allocated for the comprehensive development of over **215** parks. A Putani Park (children's park) will be built, and Rs **19.38** crore has been set aside for tree care and canopy management

East Bengaluru emerges preferred housing hub for IT professionals

Connectivity, infrastructure, balanced pricing prove to be great pull for homebuyers

Finding a home in the city continues to be a major challenge for working professionals, especially in the IT sector, where proximity to offices, affordable pricing and minimal traffic congestion remain key priorities. In this context, East Bengaluru has emerged as a preferred residential zone, offering a mix of connectivity, infrastructure and relatively balanced pricing for homebuyers.

Areas such as KR Puram remain a top choice due to seamless connectivity through the metro and Outer Ring Road, making it ideal for tech professionals. Property prices here range between ₹5,500 and ₹9,200 per sq ft. Budigere Cross is gaining popularity among those looking for wider roads and larger apartment complexes, with prices between ₹4,800 and ₹7,500 per sq ft.

Kadugodi, located close to ITPL, has seen rising demand following improved metro connectivity, with property rates ranging from ₹6,500 to ₹9,800 per sq ft. Varthur, known for its proximity to schools and hospitals, is emerging as a family-friendly locality, with prices between ₹7,000 and ₹11,500 per sq ft.

For budget-conscious buyers, Hoskote offers relatively larger homes at lower prices, ranging from ₹4,000 to ₹6,500 per sq ft, while also attracting investors due to its growth potential. Gunjur, situated between Varthur and Sarjapur, is witnessing rapid development and offers homes priced between ₹6,200 and ₹9,500 per sq ft.

Hoodi is another key area for professionals seeking homes close to workplaces, with strong rental demand and property prices ranging from ₹8,500 to ₹11,000 per sq ft. Ramamurthy Nagar, known for its relatively calm and established residential environment, appeals to families looking for stability, with prices between ₹5,000 and ₹8,500 per sq ft.

Marathahalli continues to remain a strategic location despite traffic congestion, given its proximity to major IT corridors along the Outer Ring Road.

Property prices here range from ₹7,500 to ₹12,000 per sq ft. Balagere, on the other hand, is attracting younger professionals with modern apartment complexes offering amenities such as gyms and swimming pools, with prices between ₹6,800 and ₹10,500 per sq ft.

With a wide range of options catering to different budgets and preferences, East Bengaluru continues to offer viable housing choices for professionals seeking a balance between affordability, connectivity and quality of life. **BMB**

Bengaluru drives housing demand despite Q1 slowdown

Bengaluru remained a key driver of India's housing market in the first quarter of 2026, even as overall sales across major cities declined sequentially amid global uncertainties. According to ANAROCK Research, housing sales across the top seven cities fell 7% quarter-on-quarter, with around 1,01,675 units sold in Q1 2026 compared to 1,08,970 units in the previous quarter. However, on an annual basis, sales were up 9%, reflecting a lower base in Q1 2025.

Bengaluru, along with the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), accounted for nearly 48% of total housing sales during the quarter. The city recorded sales of about 16,440 units, marking a 5% drop compared to Q4 2025, but a 10% increase year-on-year. At the same time, Bengaluru saw steady growth in new housing supply, with around 24,370 units launched in Q1 2026, a 7% rise over the previous quarter.

Across the top cities, new launches rose marginally by 2% quarter-on-quarter and 26% year-on-year, indicating that supply is now outpacing demand. This shift has contributed to a rise in unsold inventory, which increased 4% over the previous quarter and 7% annually, crossing 6 lakh units. Bengaluru recorded the highest increase in unsold stock, with a 12% quarterly rise and a 24% annual jump.

The data also shows a continued tilt towards higher-value housing. Homes priced between ₹1.5 crore and ₹2.5 crore accounted for 32% of new supply, while units above ₹2.5 crore made up 20%. In Bengaluru, nearly 75% of the new supply fell in segments priced above ₹1.5 crore.

Property prices continued to rise despite the sales dip. Average residential prices increased 2% quarter-on-quarter and 7% year-on-year across the top cities, with Bengaluru recording an 8% annual increase, among the highest.

Analysts attribute the quarterly slowdown to global factors, including the ongoing Middle East conflict, which affected buyer sentiment and input costs, according to the report. However, Bengaluru's continued share in both sales and new supply indicates that it remains one of the most active residential markets, even as the broader sector shows signs of short-term moderation.

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Infra push around Bluru to boost realty growth

Key road infrastructure projects aimed at de-congesting Bengaluru are progressing steadily, with Karnataka PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi informing the Assembly that several works are nearing completion across the metropolitan region.

According to the Minister, the Budigere Cross to Kempegowda International Airport road is 74 percent complete, while the Nelamangala to Madhure stretch has crossed 92 percent progress. Other packages, including key links towards Devanahalli and multiple railway overbridges and underpasses, are at various stages of execution. Major corridors such as Bidadi to Jigani and Bannerghatta to Anekal have already been completed, while the Anekal to Hoskote road is over 85 per cent done. Junction improvement works and an elevated corridor project are also underway. While the government maintains that these projects are critical for easing traffic and improving connectivity, real estate developers say the impact is already visible on the ground. Improved road access, especially in North, East and South-East Bengaluru, is expected to unlock new growth corridors, push land values and accelerate both residential and commercial development in peripheral areas.

Low-density living trend picks up in Bengaluru

Bengaluru's fast-paced urban growth, marked by rising traffic, high-rise clusters and shrinking open spaces, is driving a shift towards "low-density living" among homebuyers.

This emerging real estate trend focuses on using only 20–30 per cent of available land for construction, while reserving the rest for greenery, parks and open spaces. As preferences evolve, many Bengalureans are now prioritising cleaner air, natural light, privacy and a quieter environment over densely packed apartment living. An expert said, "The trend is gaining momentum in areas such as Sarjapur and North Bengaluru, where newer layouts are offering a balance between city access and a more relaxed lifestyle.

Industry observers say this reflects a broader change in how people view urban living, with greater emphasis on health and well-being rather than just location.

However, high land prices in the city continue to pose a challenge, often pushing developers towards vertical construction. Despite this, experts believe that with thoughtful planning, Bengaluru can still accommodate low-density housing models that combine sustainability with improved quality of life."

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

SHARING IS CARING

Our reader shares a vibrant capture of two green bee-eaters perched on a wire, delicately exchanging prey, offering a striking glimpse into nature's rhythm and intimate wildlife behaviour.

The picture was clicked by reader **Maneesh K T**

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Bengaluru taps treated water to fight groundwater depletion

BWSSB plans to use treated wastewater to recharge lakes as groundwater levels fall across city, aiming to ease pressure before summer months

Alarmed by falling groundwater levels in several parts of the city, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has drawn up a plan to pump treated wastewater into lakes across Bengaluru. The move follows a study by the Indian Institute of Science along with the Central Ground Water authorities and the state's groundwater and geology department, which found groundwater levels had dropped in 65 city wards. Officials said the initiative is aimed at recharging aquifers and easing pressure on groundwater sources ahead of the summer months.

The water board has prepared an action plan costing ₹10.14 crore to tackle the looming water crisis. As part of the plan, treated water from sewage treatment plants will be diverted to replenish lakes, many of which dry up during summer. So far, treated water has already been released into 23 lakes, while the process is underway in 40 more. Officials expect to complete the ongoing work by the end of this month and begin filling another 19 lakes in April. The decision was discussed in a meeting chaired by Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, where priority was given to lakes located within the 65 wards identified as groundwater stress zones.

The BWSSB is also planning to reserve nearly 75 per cent of the treated wastewater generated in the city for lake rejuvenation and environmental conservation. Currently, 34 sewage treatment plants process about 1,348 million litres per day (MLD) of wastewater. Of this, nearly 950 MLD is already being used to fill lakes. A large portion, about 870 MLD, is diverted to lakes in neighbouring districts such as Kolar and Chikkaballapur as well as in Anekal taluk, while the remaining 80 MLD is utilised within Bengaluru.

Groundwater continues to be a critical source of water for many residents. Apart from over 15,000 borewells operated by BWSSB, officials estimate that there are between four and five lakh private borewells across the city, many of which remain unregistered. With Bengaluru's population touching nearly 1.5 crore, around 35 to 40 per cent of residents still depend on groundwater for daily needs. According to the 2025 groundwater resource assessment, Bengaluru Urban district falls under the "over exploited" category. The report also highlights heavy extraction of groundwater, with about 24,144 hectare metres being used for agriculture and 16,223 hectare metres for domestic purposes. Taluks such as Bengaluru East, North, South, Yelahanka and Anekal are among the worst affected.

BWSSB chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said the number of wards reporting groundwater depletion has reduced from 85 last year to 65 this year, due to better rainfall and earlier initiatives. "The ongoing lake filling programme will continue, but citizens must reduce dependence on groundwater and opt for Cauvery water connections wherever possible," he said. Officials are also considering installing Internet of Things sensors in borewells to monitor groundwater levels closely.

— BMB

Groundwater depletion pushes Bengaluru towards lake rejuvenation efforts

DID YOU KNOW?

Rare footage of a sperm whale giving birth has offered scientists a window into the behavior of these large, elusive mammals. The video, taken in 2023, shows female whales from two family lines working together to support labor and lift the newborn calf above the water. It's a level of coordination that's extremely uncommon in the animal kingdom, especially outside of primates like monkeys and humans. "The group quite literally helps bring the calf into the world," said Oregon State University behavioral ecologist Mauricio Cantor in an email. He had no role in the new research. Scientists have long struggled to study whale behavior, as the animals spend most of their time underwater. There are only a handful of sperm whale birth records from the past 60 years, mostly anecdotal or from whaling boats. Researchers observed the birth near Dominica, where 11 whales surfaced, thrashed and dived while supporting the process. The delivery lasted about 30 minutes, with whales later holding the calf above water. "This was just really a special event," said study co-author David Gruber. — AP

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Fake investment scheme promising huge monthly returns triggers public warning

THE CLAIM: Social media posts and messages are circulating claiming a new government-backed scheme promises Rs 20 lakh monthly returns for investors. The claim suggests individuals can earn guaranteed high income with minimal risk by enrolling in this alleged investment programme being promoted as officially supported by authorities.
FACT: The claim is false. The government has clarified that no such scheme exists and has warned people against falling for fraudulent investment offers promising unrealistic returns. Authorities emphasised that such messages are misleading and urged citizens to verify information through official sources before investing or sharing such claims.

With many people looking for investments that can help them make quick gains in a short period, fraudsters are exploiting their desperation by targeting them with 'government-backed' schemes offering high returns. The government has warned about a misleading website displaying a message claiming that investors can earn over Rs 20 lakh per month with a small investment.

The platform is also misusing the name of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to appear credible and attract unsuspecting users.

The platform claims that Sitharaman is promoting an investment platform with Infosys chief Narayan Murthy and his wife Sudha Murthy, promising monthly returns of up to Rs 20 lakh on a small investment of Rs 2,100. The website also asks users to submit their personal contact details for registration.

According to a clarification issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check team, the claim is a scam and the image is fake artificial intelligence (AI-generated). The PIB Fact heck unit has clearly stated that neither the Finance Minister, nor the Government of India has endorsed any such investment scheme.

The PIB Fact Check team also informed that another fake investment video is circulating on social media, falsely showing Sitharaman endorsing a platform promising high returns. The video showing Sitharaman promising earnings of up to Rs 22 lakh per month from a small investment has been identified as digitally manipulated using AI.

The PIB Fact Check team suggested avoiding clicking on suspicious links as they may be phishing scams. It has advised not to share personal or financial details on such websites. **— ET Online**

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Around 18,000 tonnes of legacy waste still unprocessed in landfill area

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Apart from other reasons, approximately 5,000 residents in the area rely on bore wells connected to three contaminated lakes, making the study one of immediate public health relevance. We also wanted to address the gap in systematic multi-season groundwater monitoring data for this zone," said Prof Somashekar.

Researchers say the heavy metal signature in the groundwater within a 500-metre radius of the landfill is not unique to Doddabidarakallu, but can be considered for young municipal landfill leachate globally.

Any Bengaluru landfill with an unlined or poorly lined base, a shallow unconfined aquifer, and active or recent waste decomposition is likely to have a similar impact on groundwater. However, the magnitude would vary depending on waste composition, hydrogeological setting, depth to water table, and how far into the ageing process the landfill has progressed, experts say.

The study, however, also shows that the levels of copper and zinc in groundwater dropped from the post-monsoon season in 2022 to the pre-monsoon season in 2024. A drop in the concentration of heavy metals is due to the maturation of the leachate, say researchers.

Similarly, while iron contamination in groundwater around the landfill declined between 2022 and 2024, it remained above WHO standards. This shows that the natural drop in iron concentration is a slow, incomplete process rather than a clean remediation, Professor Somashekar said.

Groundwater samples collected beyond a 1-kilometre radius of the landfill showed higher electrical conductivity and nitrate contamination

"The landfill is still generating leachate from 18,000 tonnes of legacy unprocessed waste. Moreover, the shallow wells, due to certain geochemistry, release iron independently of leachate input. To maintain groundwater quality, leachate should be contained by lining, capping, and collection.

According to the researchers, while the landfill's fingerprint in groundwater is real, measurable, and concerning within 1 kilometre, the broader water quality crisis in this catchment has multiple overlapping factors. The study revealed that the landfill is not the dominant stressor across the broader catchment.

Groundwater samples collected beyond a 1-kilometre radius of the landfill showed higher electrical conductivity and nitrate contamination upstream STP discharge, and industrial effluents in the area.

"Concentration of heavy metal iron, in surface water away from the landfill, was found to be as high as 26.48 mg per liter, which is 87 times the WHO guideline. This is mainly due to upstream industrial discharge during low-flow dry season conditions, and not the leachate from the landfill," said

Period leave genuine need, HC told

The Karnataka government, along with a group of women lawyers from Bengaluru, defended the State's menstrual leave policy before the Karnataka High Court, arguing that the measure is aimed at addressing a genuine biological need rather than creating inequality.

Appearing for the State, counsel submitted that the policy—granting one day of paid leave per month to women employees—is a welfare measure intended to support health and dignity in the workplace.

It was argued that menstruation is a natural biological process that can cause physical discomfort, and recognising this through leave provisions does not violate principles of equality. **BMB**

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I Sinku Kumari W/O, Praveen Kashyap R/o Century Linea, E-31, Jakkur Road, Jakkur Layout have changed my name to Kusum Kashyap.

GEETAMMA R/o B305 Nakshatra lake view apt 7th Main Subash nagar Kengeri Satellite Town Blore-60 Have changed my name to Geeta

MANJUNATH Marugondanadibba Hanumanthapa R/o Maragondanadibba Hosadurga Chitradurga-27 Have changed my name to Manjunatha Maragondanadibba Hanumanthappa

I, MALIKA KHATOON w/o SHAIL KHATOON residing at #T P No 4856, New No 25, Tippu Mohalla, DJ Halli, Bangalore – 560045 have changed my name to MALLIKA KHATOON vide affidavit dated 07/03/2026 sworn before notary C Sharada Bangalore

I, Shailaja Tirumalallu Subbareddy R/o No.147, 4th main, Bhel Lyt main road, Kenchenahalli, RR nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Tirumalallu Subbareddy Shylaja . I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Beena Monnappa, W/o: Monnappa, R/o: 104 Vasudha paradise Coconut Garden Bangalore 49, have changed my name to Beena K T For all purposes.

I, Faisal Ahmad S/O, Noor Ali R/o 1-4-157/88, Near Adarsha School, Amreshwar Colony, Raichur have changed my name to Faisal Ahmed for all purposes.

PRABAVATHY Govinda Naidu R/o No 16 Ganesh Nilaya Kuduru Kalappa Block Basavanagudi Bengaluru-04 Have changed my name to Prabhavathi Muniswamy

I Ashfak Mulla S/O, Shamshuddin R/o # Sf4 Orchid Residency 3flr 1st Cross L T South City Arekere Mico Layout South Bangaluru 560076 have changed my name to Ashfak S Mulla for all purposes.

I, Padhma Piriya M R/o Flat #GF003, Nandi Residency, No. 5, 1st main, 2nd A cross, NGEF Layout, Main Road, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru 560072 have changed my name to Padhma Piriya Shashi Kumar. Affidavit Dt.27/03/2026 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Sashi Kumar Mariappan R/o Flat #GF003, Nandi Residency, No. 5, 1st main, 2nd A cross, NGEF Layout, Main Road, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru 560072 have changed my name to Shashi Kumar Mariappan Affidavit Dt.27/03/2026 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, KHUSHBOO KARAN BAJAJ W/O Karan Deepak Bajaj, R/o No. C-1053, 5th floor, Sobha HRC Pristine, Srirampura Road, Jakkur, Bangalore - 560064, have changed my name from KHUSHBOO SUNIL LAHORI To KHUSHBOO KARAN BAJAJ.

I, SURESH TIBREWAL H/O MINA TIBREWAL, R/O BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560035, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SURESH KUMAR TIBREWAL TO SURESH TIBREWAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

I, MINA TIBREWAL W/O SURESH TIBREWAL, R/O BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560035, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MINNA KUMARI TIBREWAL TO MINA TIBREWAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

LOST & FOUND

I, Manjula Rau, residing at No. 13, 15th C Cross, MCHS Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore, have lost Original Sale Deed, No. BNG(U)-ANKL/3798/97-98 on 20.03.2026 at MCHS Layout, BTM 2nd Stage. Finders please contact: 9880206910

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Special drives not enough, behavioural change required, say police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The data has raised concerns within the department, as drunken driving is one of the leading causes of fatal accidents and injuries on city roads. Due to videos going viral, more people are aware of this issue on the city's roads. Starring in yet another such video, was 42-year-old IT professional Derrick Tony. Driving under the influence, he rammed into a restaurant wall and the car mounted a divider and hit a parked two-wheeler before the crash; multiple pedestrians narrowly escaped.

Officials stated that routine checks are being conducted across various junctions, particularly during late-night hours and weekends when such violations are more common. Breath analyser tests are regularly deployed to identify offenders, and those found guilty face strict penalties, including fines, suspension of driving licences, and possible imprisonment in severe cases.

According to traffic police officials, enforcement drives were conducted across the city involving personnel from 53 traffic police stations. Between March 9 and March 22, 1,364 cases were booked.

Police officials stated that officers are equipped with modern alcometers and breathalysers to measure a driver's Blood Alcohol Content (BAC). If the BAC exceeds 30 mg per 100 ml of blood, the individual is considered to be driving under the influence of alcohol. Officials cautioned that some people assume consuming a small peg or a bottle of beer is safe, but alcohol tolerance varies from person to person. They stressed that it is always safer to avoid drinking before driving, or to have a sober person take the wheel. They also noted that BAC readings may slightly vary, and even a small drop excess can have legal consequences.

Such a violation is punishable by law with a fine and / or a jail sentence. Individuals found in violation are also liable to have their driving licences suspended and fined for Rs 10,000. "Some motorists hide their driving licence (DL) and claim they will say they have not brought it along. But somehow we ensure that they show us their DL. Sometimes if they have any sober friends and if they have valid DL then we will let them ride with sober friends, but if at all they are alone, then we ask them to book a cab or auto and seize the vehicle and next day they can pay the fine and collect their vehicle," said an officer.

Despite ongoing enforcement, police believe that awareness and behavioural change among citizens remain a challenge. "Enforcement alone cannot solve the issue. People must understand the risks associated with drunken driving not just to themselves, but to others on the road," a senior traffic official said.

68 booked in drunk driving crackdown on school, tanker drivers

The traffic police on Thursday conducted a special early-morning drive targeting school vehicle and water tanker drivers for drunk driving, registering 68 cases in just two hours.

The enforcement was carried out between 7 am and 9 am across key locations in the city. During the drive, 59 school vehicle drivers and 14 water tanker drivers were found driving under the influence of alcohol.

Police said the initiative was aimed at ensuring the safety of schoolchildren and preventing potential road accidents involving heavy vehicles.

All drivers who tested positive for alcohol have been booked under relevant provisions of the Indian Motor Vehicles (IMV) Act. Officials added that the driving licences (DLs) of the offenders will be forwarded to the respective Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) for suspension.

Police officials stated that such drives will continue in the coming days.

Fresh playing and pitch conditions for IPL 2026

ALL SET FOR THE MATCHES?

SS Shreekumar
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

KSCA grounds ready for the IPL matches, on Friday

Reigning champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will clash with Sunrisers Hyderabad in the opening match of IPL 2026 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The BCCI and the IPL Governing Council have brought in many conditions during and before actual play to be adhered to by all teams at all IPL venues.

Following the toss, the Captains must provide a list of their starting eleven and names of five substitutes to the Match Referee just as football teams at all levels do prior to any match. With regard to A overseas players, no team can name more than four overseas players in its playing X and nor can more than four be on the field at any single time.

If a team starts with four overseas players, any overseas substitute may only replace another overseas player already on the field.

The 2026 rules detail a formal process for Concussion Replacements. if a player sustains a head or neck injury within the playing area. A replacement is only permitted if the injury is formally diagnosed by the Team Medical Doctor and a request is submitted to the Match Referee. The Referee must ensure the replacement is a like-for-like player to avoid giving the team an excessive advantage. Once approved, the concussed player can take no further part in the match, and the replacement inherits all previous warnings or penalty time associated with that position.

BCCI appoints a panel of four umpires for each match: two on-field umpires, a third umpire responsible for TV replays and automated no-ball calls, and a fourth umpire who serves as an emergency backup.

These officials must be present at the ground at least two hours before the start of play. Regarding equipment, only Type A bats, meeting strict dimensions for width (4.25 in), depth (2.64 in), and edge thickness (1.56 in) are permitted.

The fourth umpire performs mandatory bat checks for opening batters at the boundary edge, while on-field umpires check incoming batters before they take strike.

Standard uninterrupted matches consist of 20 overs per side. There is a mandatory 20-minute interval between innings. Strategic Time-Outs are also categorised as official intervals. To ensure matches progress efficiently, the fielding side is required to maintain a specific over rate; if the 20th over does not commence by the scheduled cessation time, penalties will be applied.

In cases of delay, the match duration is reduced at a rate of approximately 14.11 overs per hour of lost time. A minimum of five overs must be bowled to the team batting second to constitute a valid match result.

Today's battle
Royal Challengers Bengaluru
VS
Sunrisers Hyderabad
7.30 PM Bengaluru

Captains will be held responsible for ensuring play adheres to the Spirit of Cricket. The rules define several instances of Unfair Play, such as deliberate attempts by fielders to distract the striker or unauthorised movement by the wicket-keeper before the ball is delivered. In such cases, umpires may award five penalty runs to the opposing side.

The Super Over

If a match ends in a tie, a Super Over is used to determine the winner. Each team faces one over of six balls, and the innings ends if two wickets are lost. If the Super Over itself results in a tie, subsequent Super Overs are played until a winner is decided, provided weather and time allow.

To maintain the fast-paced nature of T20 cricket, the Timed Out rule is strictly enforced. After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming player must be in position to take strike or for their partner to be ready to receive the next ball within 90 seconds. If the batter fails to meet this requirement, they will be declared out upon an appeal from the fielding side. This window includes the time taken for the player to exit the field and the new player to enter the playing area.

This includes deliberate attempts to distract the striker through noise or movement while the bowler is running in. Additionally, the rules regarding the wicket-keeper and fielders are strict.

Any significant movement by the keeper or fielders after the ball comes into play and before it reaches the striker is considered unfair. If such an event occurs, the umpire will signal a Dead Ball and can award five penalty runs to the batting side.

A batter is protected when defending their wicket but is restricted by the Hit the Ball Twice rule. A batter may hit the ball a second time only for the sole purpose of guarding their wickets. If the batter deliberately strikes the ball a second time to score runs or for any reason other than protecting the stumps, they will be declared out upon appeal.

HIGHLIGHTS

Row over tickets

With the Indian Premier League (IPL) set to begin on Saturday, a controversy over the distribution of match tickets to legislators has triggered a political tussle between the ruling government and the Opposition in Karnataka.

The issue was raised in the Assembly on Thursday where a few legislators demanded that passes should be given to representatives, prompting Speaker UT Khader to direct the government to address concerns over allocation of tickets for MLAs and MPs. Following this, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday held a meeting at Vidhana Soudha with Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) president Venkatesh Prasad, secretary Vinay and other officials to discuss the matter.

The development drew sharp reactions from the Opposition, with State BJP president BY Vijayendra openly opposed the demand for tickets by legislators. "We legislators are not bigger or different from common people. We should not be asking for special privileges. I am opposed to this idea," he said while speaking to reporters at the party headquarters.

He also criticised the government's approach, stating that such demands were insensitive, especially in the backdrop of a recent tragedy in the state that claimed 11 lives. "When that incident is still fresh in public memory, it is not right to seek special passes or tickets," he added. The government also reviewed safety and logistical arrangements for the upcoming matches. Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh chaired a high-level meeting with officials and KSCA representatives to assess preparedness at the stadium and across the city. Officials briefed her on security arrangements inside and around the stadium, traffic diversions, parking facilities, drinking water supply, and other basic amenities for spectators. Details regarding metro operations, expected passenger load, security at stations and scheduling were also discussed. The Chief Secretary directed all departments to remain on high alert. –BMB

RCB to focus on defending title, says coach Flower

Royal Challengers Bengaluru are looking ahead to the challenges of the 2026 Indian Premier League as defending champions for the first time, shifting the focus from last season's emotional end to the demands of a new campaign, coach Andy Flower said.

RCB, who lifted their maiden IPL title last year after a long trophy drought, return to their home ground at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday for the tournament opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Flower was proud of last year's triumph, but said it was followed by an emotional period after celebrations were overshadowed by a stampede outside the stadium that claimed 11 lives.

"It was very satisfying professionally for everyone, of course, but a really emotional time for all sorts of reasons at the end of last season," Flower told reporters.

"It's another time, so it's time to move on from that."

Flower said the team is conscious of the responsibility that comes with defending the title and representing the franchise that draws massive support across the world.

"When we go into these jobs and represent our owners and our franchise and each other, that always carries a responsibility and an accountability about how we conduct ourselves," Flower said.

RCB's Jacob Bethell and teammates during a practice session at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday

RCB and local authorities have tightened crowd-management protocols after last year's incident and have put in place enhanced entry monitoring, phased dispersal plans and additional medical and security personnel for the opening match.

The RCB players will wear black armbands on Saturday as a mark of respect, with 11 seats left vacant in memory of those who lost their lives last year.

EMOTIONAL ANCHOR

India great Virat Kohli remains the biggest crowd puller and emotional ballast for the team. The 37-year-old spent extended time in the nets, striking the ball cleanly and repeatedly clearing the ropes.

Flower praised his fitness and mindset, describing the former captain as "super fit" and highly motivated despite managing his workload.

"He looks very lean, hungry and determined," Flower said.

"Mentally and emotionally he's in a really good space, and watching him strike the ball in training, he looks right on top of his game."

RCB will also be banking on domestic talents under captain Rajat Patidar, while their opponents Hyderabad will look to their explosive batting group led by stand-in captain Ishan Kishan.

Hyderabad have power hitters in Australia's Travis Head, India opener Abhishek Sharma, Kishan and England all-rounder Liam Livingstone, but will miss Australia pacer Pat Cummins, who is still building fitness. –Reuters

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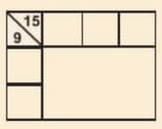
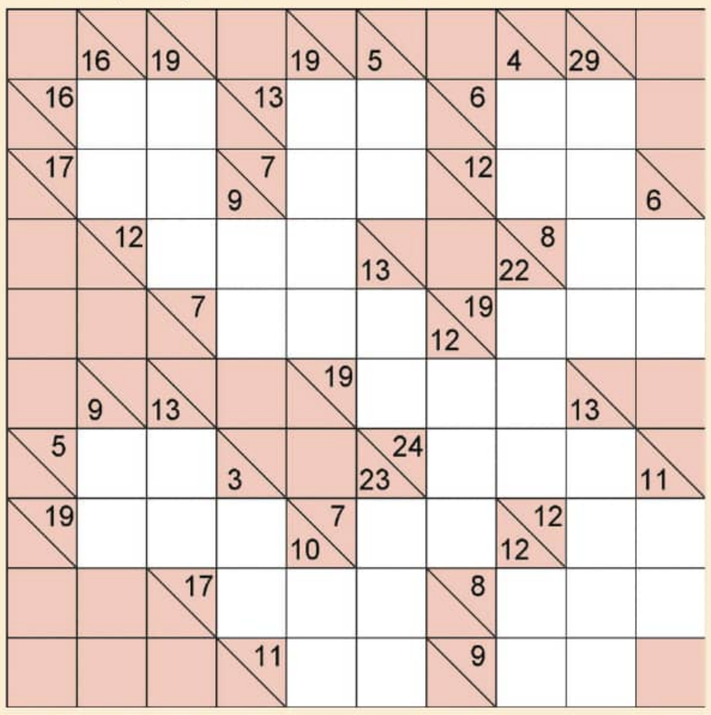
Kakuro

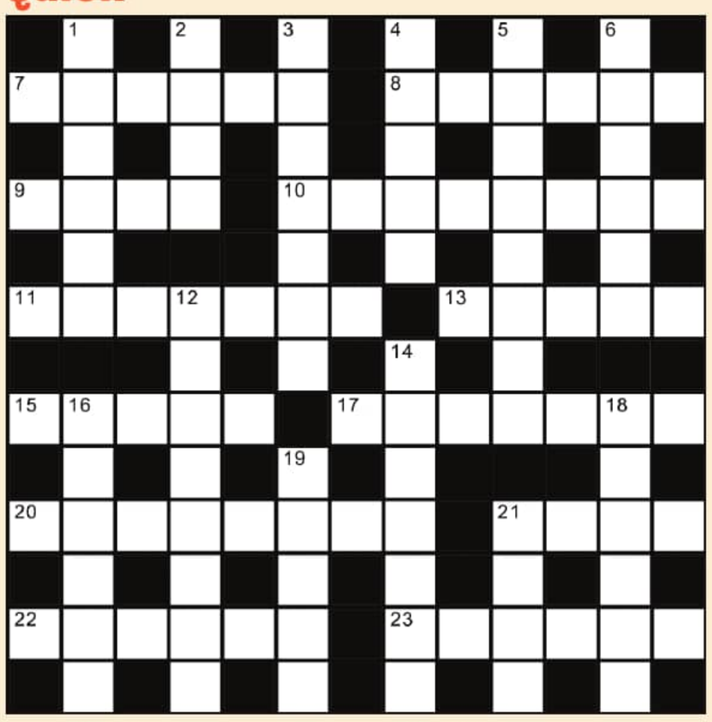
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Set on fire? (6)
8 Defeated and put to flight (6)
9 Remain (4)
10 Give actor a role appropriate to his nature? (4-4)
11 It is used for cutting wood etc. (4,3)
13 Best way to deal with a thrust? (5)
15 Burnoose wearers (5)
17 Giant American cactus (7)
20 Feel or become exhausted or spent up, in a way? (3,5)
21 Popular pub in Indira Nagar (4)
22 Increase; arrive (4,2)
23 Acted poorly (6)

DOWN

1 ___ Christie : the "Queen of Crime"? (6)
2 Compassion (4)
3 A flowering plant–"gain ten" anagram? (7)
4 Ambushes (5)
5 The Karate sticks? (8)
6 More compact (6)
12 Arguing for or against from a platform? (8)
14 Is slow and wastes time (7)
16 Contrite (6)
18 Curtain ___ : a preliminary event, generally speaking? (6)
19 Burst forth (5)
21 Stepped (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS Y

XUG QJL ES RBS AUUL JLT MRWOO ES YSJOUGM UC RBS MRJKM.

Linemaro

I'm not allowed to bet, but if I could've I'd have bet on you

Mindchow

The last refuge of the insomniac is a sense of superiority to the sleeping world

Joke of the day

Confucius say... is only when a mosquito lands on your testicles that you realise there is always a way to solve a problem without violence

Loop

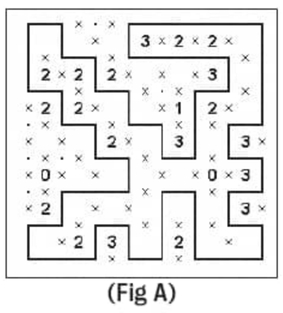
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

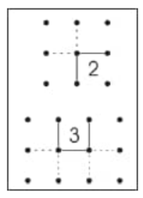
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

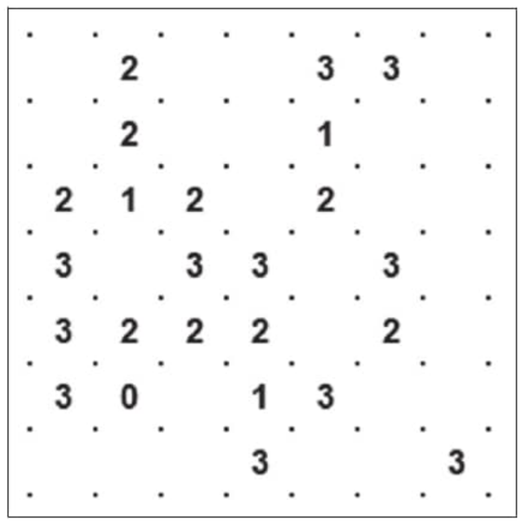
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



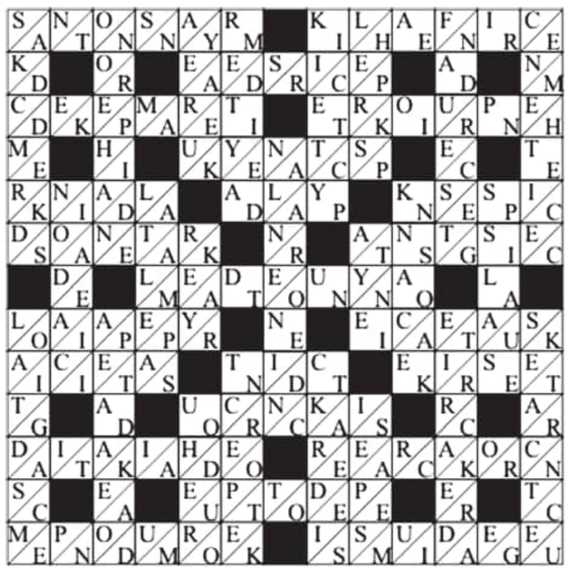
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



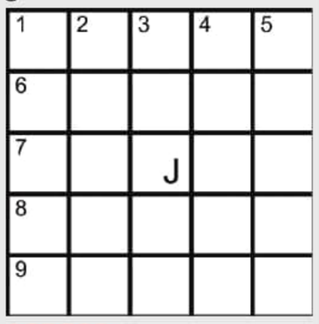
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Stars; 6 Amino;
7 BJ IOU; 8 Bolts;
9 Yo sue

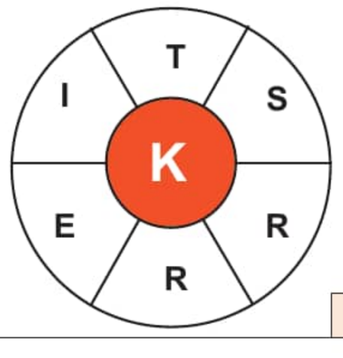
DOWN

1 By bat; 2 Limos;
3 Juno a; 4 Or Its;
5 So sue

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the empty segment?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2	6		8		1			3
3	1		5					
			6			5		
	8	2	3					
4								1
					8	9	5	
		6			7			
					5		8	6
9			1		3		7	4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 2

3 9 7 7

Medium

= 25

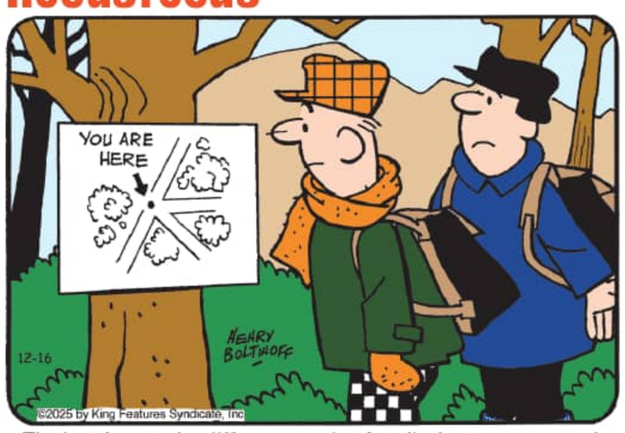
2 5 9 2

Hard

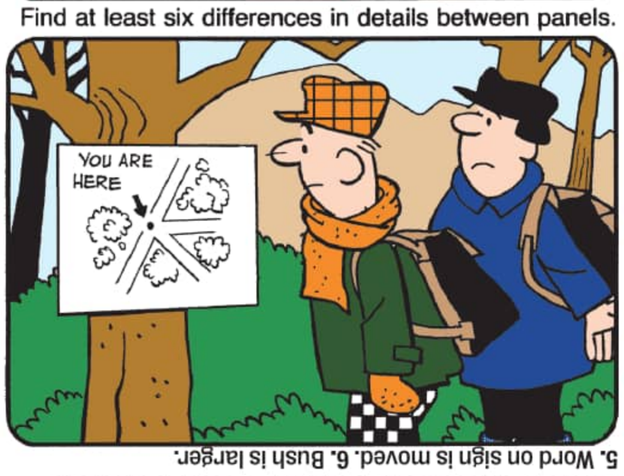
= 7

3 3 6 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



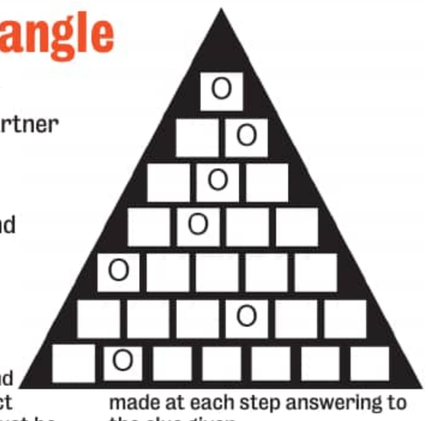
Differences: 1. Backpack strap is missing. 2. Pants are different. 3. Tree trunk is thinner. 4. Scarf is different. 5. Word on sign is moved. 6. Bush is larger.

Riddler

What connects Secrets & Lies, Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire and Quadrophenia?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 8
2 Act
3 Cone's retinal partner
4 Street
5 Sculled
6 Felt hat
7 Scrounged around

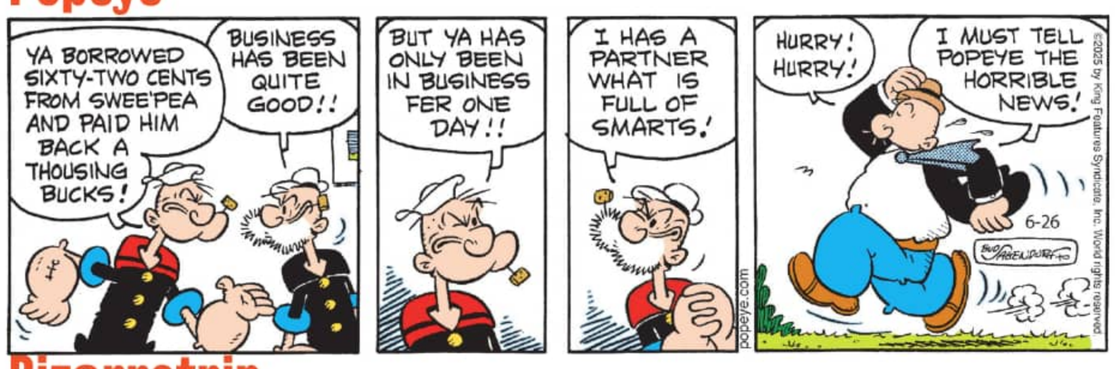


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

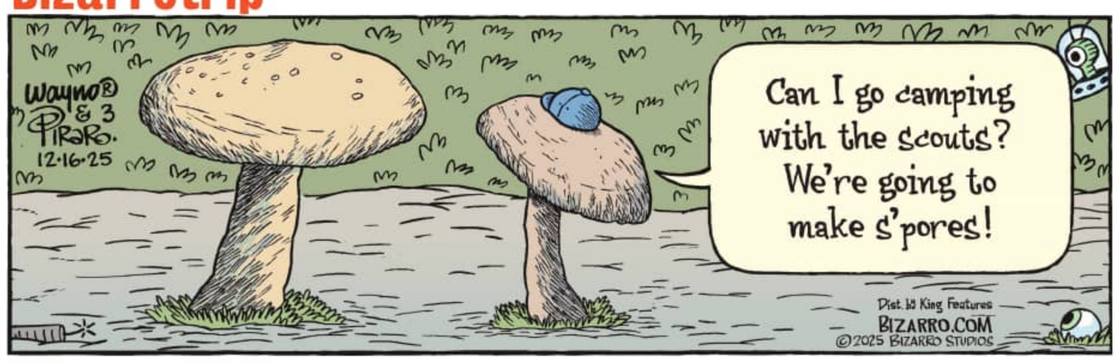
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Ambition energizes you. Love feels empowering and passionate. Career opportunities appear when you assert yourself. Financial growth follows bold yet measured steps. Travel aligns with expansion and influence. Home reflects confidence and pride. Your determination inspires others, reminding you that leadership rooted in authenticity creates success without sacrificing emotional fulfilment.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

The coming days strongly favour new beginnings. Whatever you start now carries powerful momentum. Dream boldly, act confidently, and trust that even ambitious goals can succeed beyond expectations.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

If an opportunity arises to help someone today, take it. Kindness matters. Supporting others not only feels right, it also brings lasting rewards and goodwill back into your own life.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Ignore critics today and proceed confidently. Risks you take now are manageable, and challenging tasks will feel easier than expected. Trust your judgment and move forward without second-guessing yourself.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

If you feel under appreciated professionally, speak up now. Make it clear you expect recognition for quality work and won't continue giving your best without proper acknowledgment or respect.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Following your instincts today leads toward enjoyment and success. Trust inner guidance completely, knowing your choices align with adventure, confidence, satisfaction, momentum, growth, optimism, enthusiasm, joy, progress, purpose, fulfilment.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

You've been giving too much lately. Reduce generosity with money and time, set bound, and stop overextending yourself. Support others reasonably without paying every cost personally anymore.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Before rushing to help someone, confirm they truly need assistance and actually want it. Caring is admirable, but sometimes stepping back is more helpful than intervening unnecessarily.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Your determination is intense today, making resistance unlikely. Others sense your firmness and avoid confrontation. When focused like this, you don't compromise easily, and people know it.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

The next few days highlight creativity and romance. Blending passion with artistic expression brings joy, inspiration, and memorable experiences. Aim high, pursue what excites you, and enjoy fully.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

This is an ideal time to heal family tensions. Release past grievances, address issues calmly, and move forward constructively. Resolution is possible now, regardless of previous misunderstandings or emotional distance.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

You'll express yourself clearly today, but choose words that uplift others. Positive communication strengthens connections, and helping people feel valued will leave you feeling deeply satisfied too.

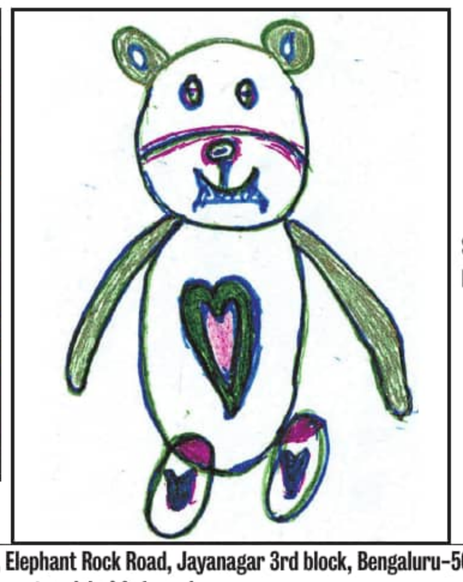
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

If considering a financial risk, proceed thoughtfully. Pay attention to instincts, evaluate potential downsides carefully, and avoid rushing blindly. Informed choices now protect long-term stability and confidence.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Sanjanna, Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(-1(128)) x (5) ÷ 3.31= (-128) x (5)÷3.31 = -640÷3.31 = -193.35

BULL'S EYE

kite, risk, skier, skirt, skit, strike, STRIKER, trek

STRIKE OUT

A	N	O	N	Y	M	■	K	H	A	F	R	E	■	■
D	■	R	■	E	E	R	I	■	E	■	A	■	M	■
D	E	P	A	R	T	■	T	R	O	U	P	E	■	■
E	■	H	■	K	E	A	T	S	■	C	■	T	■	■
R	I	A	L	■	D	A	Y	■	K	E	P	I	■	■
S	O	N	A	R	■	R	■	A	N	T	I	C	■	■
D	■	M	A	D	O	N	N	A	■	L	■	■	■	■
L	I	P	P	Y	■	N	■	I	C	T	U	S	■	■
I	C	E	S	■	T	I	C	■	K	I	S	T	■	■
G	■	A	■	O	R	C	A	S	■	C	■	A	■	■
A	I	K	I	D	O	■	R	E	C	K	O	N	■	■
S	■	E	■	E	P	O	D	E	■	E	■	C	■	■
E	N	D	U	R	E	■	S	M	U	D	G	E	■	■

FAST FIVE

T	S	A	R	S
A	M	N	I	O
B	I	J	O	U
B	L	O	T	S
Y	O	U	S	E

RIDDLER

Timothy Spall.

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

19. The numbers, starting at 2 and going clockwise around each circle, represent the first 9 prime numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE

You can be the moon and still be jealous of the stars.

SUDOKU

9	5	8	1	6	3	2	7	4
7	4	3	9	2	5	1	8	6
1	2	6	4	8	7	3	9	5
6	3	1	7	4	8	9	5	2
4	9	7	2	5	6	8	3	1
5	8	2	3	1	9	4	6	7
8	7	4	6	3	2	5	1	9
3	1	9	5	7	4	6	2	8
2	6	5	8	9	1	7	4	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE

0, Do, Rod, Road, Oared, Fedora, Foraged.

GO FIGURE

Easy
7 + 7 – 9 – 3 = 2
Medium
9 – 2 – 2 x 5 = 25
Hard
6 – 3 – 3 + 7 = 7

LOOP

KAKURO

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Average Ex-Showroom Price	Rs. 15.79 Lakh	Rs. 15.99 Lakh	Rs. 15.78 Lakh	Rs. 15.97 Lakh
Max Power (bhp@rpm)	113 bhp @ 6300 rpm	105 bhp @ 6000 rpm	102 bhp @ 6000 rpm	102 bhp @ 6000 rpm
Manual - 6 Gears	✔	✔	X	X
Brake Override System	✔	X	X	X
Driver Rear View Monitor (DRVM)	✔	X	X	X
Dashcam	✔	X	X	X
Ambient Sounds	✔	X	X	X
Puddle Lamps	✔	X	X	✔
Infotainment Screen	10.25" Touch-screen Display	12.29" Touch-screen Display	9" Touch-screen Display	9" Touch-screen Display
Audio System	8 Speakers, 1 Subwoofer, 2 Tweeters	4 Speakers, 4 Tweeters	4 Clarion Speakers, 2 Tweeters	4 Speakers, 2 Tweeters
Call Reject with SMS	✔	X	X	X
Vehicle Tracking Via App	✔	X	✔	X
Breakdown Assistance Call Button	✔	X	X	X
Over The Air (OTA) Updates	✔	X	X	X
Home-to-Car Connectivity - Alexa	✔	X	X	X
Navigation On Instrument Cluster	✔	X	X	X
Tyre Position Display	✔	X	X	X
Gear Shift Indicator	✔	X	✔	X
Vehicle Warranty	3 Years / Unlimited Kms	3 Years / 100000 Kms	3 Years / 100000 Kms	3 Years / 100000 Kms

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